
Regional Council Activity Report

June 8, 1998



Executive Director's Report

As our fiscal year draws to a close, I am happy to report a number of positive outcomes to items we have been tracking.

On May 22, 1998, Congress passed the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21). This six-year public works bill reauthorizes the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA). Preliminary information on TEA 21 indicates that it will provide more than \$215 billion for the nation's highways, bridges and mass transit systems. In the bill, \$173 billion is provided for highways, \$41.4 billion for transit, and \$2.2 billion for highway safety. Of the total amount, \$205.5 is guaranteed for highway, transit and safety spending. The bill preserves the role for Metropolitan Planning Organizations and local decision-making in planning and programming funds for metropolitan areas. It is expected that the bill will be signed by the President.

Preliminary analysis indicates that of the \$205.5 billion in guaranteed spending, \$167 billion will be for highways, \$36.3 billion will be for transit, and \$2 billion will be for safety. Initial information released from the Federal Highway Administration indicates that Arizona's annual average share of highway spending will increase from \$256 million to \$408 million. This accounts for a 60 percent increase in highway funding to Arizona over the next six years.

With the closing of the legislative session, we are pleased to report that the legislation supporting the Regional Transportation Authority did not pass. Special thanks go to all of our member agencies who contacted their Legislators on this legislation, to Senator Keith Bee, Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, who supported MAG, and to Senator Brenda Burns, President of the Senate, and Governor Jane Hull, who were very helpful on this legislation.

As was discussed in our January Regional Council retreat, a priority for MAG in the coming months will be outreach activities to our legislators. The

Executive Committee has discussed the need for contacting our Legislators and sharing with them the positive aspects of MAG. More details on this effort will be forthcoming in future issues.

And finally, effective May 1, 1998, Congress passed Public Law 105-174 which prohibits the imposition of the 1991 Carbon Monoxide Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) in Arizona. This includes the FIP contingency process which called for a ten-month highway delay for carbon monoxide violations after December 1991.



Regional Council Meeting Report May 27, 1998

Regional Plan on Domestic Violence

The City of Phoenix Education, Family, Youth and Culture Subcommittee, via Councilmember Cody Williams, requested that MAG address the domestic violence issue on a regional basis. The Regional Council approved convening interested and affected individuals and organizations to develop a comprehensive regional strategy.

For more information, contact Carol Kratz, Human Services Manager, 254-6300.

MAG Solid Waste Advisory Committee

The Regional Council approved replacing the Solid Waste Coordinating Committee and Solid Waste Technical Advisory Committee with a broad based Solid Waste Advisory Committee. This committee will have a membership to include a balance of public officials; representatives of public interest groups; private citizens; and citizens or representatives of organizations with substantial economic interest in the outcome of the planning process.

For more information, contact Lindy Bauer, Environmental Manager, 254-6300.

Material Change Policy for the MAG Regional Freeway Program

State law requires that MAG approve any material cost increases to the MAG Freeway Program. The 1997 Performance Audit for the MAG Freeway Program recommended that MAG and the Arizona Department of Transportation develop a definition of "material change." Under this policy, "material change" concerns material cost change, material scope change or material schedule change. The process to review and approve changes involves all

changes being forwarded to MAG for review. All material changes will be forwarded to the Regional Council for approval. The Regional Council approved the material change policy for the MAG Freeway Program. For more information, contact Eric Anderson, MAG Freeway Program Manager, 470-1107.

Grand Avenue Corridor Study

The Grand Avenue Concept Study was undertaken to develop a system level consensus and design concept for the Grand Avenue Corridor. Three concepts were recommended for more detailed review in a Major Investment Study (MIS), which is needed for federal funding. The Regional Council accepted the Grand Avenue Concept Study and approved conducting a MIS and environmental study on the Grand Avenue corridor. For more information, contact Terry Johnson, Transportation Manager, 254-6300.

FY1999 Budget and Unified Planning Work Program

Each year MAG develops a Budget and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The purpose of the UPWP is to guide the regional planning efforts. For FY 1999, the UPWP and Annual Budget format were revised and consolidated into one document. The format was changed to provide more concise information to the member agencies and public and to establish outcome measures for programs. The proposed dues and assessments were adjusted to reflect population growth and inflation. The proposed FY 1999 budget of \$5,457,000 is balanced and represents a 4.65% increase over the previous year. The Regional Council approved the resolution adopting the FY 1999 MAG UPWP and Annual Budget and dues and assessments. For more information, contact James M. Bourey, Executive Director, 254-6300.

Establishing the Maricopa Association of Governments Information Center (MAGIC) as a Subsidiary of MAG

The Regional Council approved the concept of establishing a subsidiary of MAG for the development and distribution of data. Through this subsidiary, called the Maricopa Association of Governments Information Center (MAGIC), specialized information and services to member agencies, private sector businesses and individuals and other public sector agencies would be provided. The governing board of the enterprise could be the Regional Council Executive Committee. The Articles of Incorporation will be presented in June for approval. For more information, contact Rita Walton, Policy and Information Manager, 254-6300.



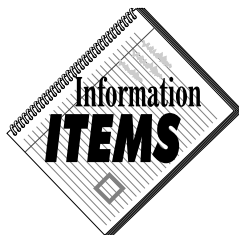
Upcoming Issues

Requested Changes to the MAG Freeway Program

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) has requested changes to the Draft Tentative 1999-2006 Life Cycle Regional Freeway Program. The additional projects are needed to complete utility relocation work on the Agua Fria and Pima Freeways and for the drainage project on the San Tan Freeway. For more information, contact Eric Anderson, MAG Freeway Program Manager, 470-1107.

MAG Annual Financial Audit and Single Audit and Management Letter for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1997

The public accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP has completed the MAG Annual Financial Audit and Single Audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1997. The Single Audit report indicated there were no reportable conditions in MAG's internal control over financial reporting considered to be material weaknesses, no instances of noncompliance considered to be material and no questioned costs. During FY 1998, MAG has either resolved, or is in the process of addressing, each of the findings. For more information, contact Art Rullo, Fiscal Services Manager, 254-6300.



Information Items

Recognition of Outgoing Regional Council Members

Chairman Scruggs spoke in recognition of departing members of the Regional Council. She stated that many sacrifices are made by members to attend the MAG Regional Council meeting at the end of a long day, and commends those who make these efforts in the best interests of the residents of Maricopa County. The four Regional Council members are:

- u *Mayor Mike Baker* from Buckeye, who joined the Regional Council in June 1996. He was a proponent for transportation solutions in his area and was a voice for agricultural interests when we considered our air quality measures.
- u *Mayor Jerold Miles* from Fountain Hills, who joined the Regional Council in June 1996, and was an active member of the Council and interested in open space management.
- u *Mayor Richard Vasiloff* from Litchfield Park, who joined the Regional Council in June 1992. As an active member of the Council, he was in-

strumental in MAG developing a listing of low cost transportation projects which were implemented by ADOT. He also chaired the goal setting committee that was established in the MAG transition process. He was been an advocate for West Valley interests. Mayor Vasiloff introduced, Mr. Colin Barleycorn, the recently elected mayor of Litchfield Park.

- u *Councilmember Sara Moya* from Paradise Valley joined the Regional Council in April 1988, and set a standard for regional public service. She chaired the Regional Development Policy Committee and the Homeless Committee and has served on the Youth Policy Advisory Committee. During the MAG transition period, she served on the committee that recommended the new MAG Director.

For more information, contact Dennis Smith, Assistant Director, 254-6300.



Upcoming Events

Desert Peaks Awards Dinner

The 1998 Desert Peaks Awards Dinner will be held at the Hyatt Regency, Phoenix, in conjunction with the Regional Council Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 1998. Please call the MAG office to make your dinner reservations, at a cost of \$35 per person. Approximately sixty entries were submitted for this event. The awards focus on a commitment to the spirit of regionalism, and honor Regional Excellence, member agency Regional Partnership, Public-Private Partnership, and Distinguished Service.

For more information, contact Rita Walton, Policy and Information Manager, 254-6300.

Next Regional Council Meeting

The next Regional Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 24, 1998. The main topics on the agenda are expected to include:

- u Requested Changes to the MAG Freeway Program
- u Articles of Incorporation to Establish the Maricopa Association of Governments Information Center as a Subsidiary of MAG
- u MAG Annual Financial Audit and Single Audit and Management Letter for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1997
- u Election of Officers
- u Overview of Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century
- u Desert Peaks Awards Dinner

For more information, contact James M. Bourey, Executive Director, 254-6300.